



Kootenai National Forest
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News Release

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Kootenai National Forest Multiple Fire Update

LIBBY, Mont. August 16, 2015 4:15 p.m. – Progress continues to be made in suppressing multiple lightning caused fires that have started on the Kootenai in since August 10th. Several small fires have been spotted in the last 24 hours, raising the overall total during this seven day period to 51 fires on the National Forest and eight on state land. Forest fires that have started since August 10 have burned approximately 2800 acres, the majority of which is accounted for by the Marston Fire on the Rexford/Fortine Ranger District.

For management purposes, several fires in the Rexford/Fortine Ranger District have been combined into the Northeast Kootenai Complex, including the Marston Fire (2339 acres), Weigel Fire (100 acres), Dunn Fire (74 acres), Barnaby Fire (8 acres), and Sunday Fire (15 acres). The complex is being managed by the Type 2 Team which arrived initially to manage the Weigel Fire last week. The District will continue to handle initial attack on new and smaller fires, while the Type 2 Team manages larger incidents. District crewmembers have control of the No Seeum Fire (0.5 acres), found early this morning along a roadway in the Pinkham Falls area. With 6-9 firefighters working on it, they expect to have it completely suppressed by the end of the day.

The Trout Creek Ranger District is managing 11 new fires from yesterday and this morning, with the help of the local Type 3 Team. The team is focusing on a cluster of five fires including Hamilton Gulch (20 acres), Star Gulch (20 acres), Napoleon (40 acres), Napoleon 3 (50 acres), and Government (30 acres). A Hotshot Crew will be arriving today to assist the team with suppression as well. District crews continue to work on smaller fires in the Trout Creek area. They have contained the Big Eddy fire and hope to have the Elk Mountain Fire completely suppressed by the end of the day. The Lone Cliff Fire (3 acres) continues to be monitored, along with the new Pillick 2 Fire (0.1 acre).

Several unstaffed fires are being allowed to burn in or near the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. These include the Poplar Fire (120 acres), the Berray Mountain Fire (50 acres) and the Berray 2 Fire (10 acres). The lookout at Berray Mountain is still intact and

the radio repeater is still functional. Several other small fires continue to burn in the wilderness as well.

There are four active fires on the Troy Ranger District with the majority of resources devoted to managing the Cyclone Fire (20 acres). The Sawtooth Fire is estimated at 100 plus acres. It is being allowed to burn due to resources being diverted elsewhere.

The Libby Ranger District is also managing four fires, three of which are on Blue Mountain. The fourth fire is the Midas Creek Fire (3 acres) which has been contained by fire line.

The Department of Natural Resources has one new fire from last night, the Richards Fire. A rappel crew will be assisting with that fire today, as well as with the Silver Butte Fire.

There are two public meetings this evening, one in Trego at 7:00 p.m. at the Trego Community Center and another in Noxon at 6:00 p.m. at the Noxon Fire Hall.

Website: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/mtkdc/INDEX.HTM>

Updates will be released as new information becomes available.

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